



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATIONS**

Application Number: 10/758,823  
Applicant: BRICE ET AL.  
Filed: January 16, 2004  
Art Unit: 3749  
Examiner: Josiah C. Cocks  
Docket No: 3647  
Customer No. 22474

Charlotte, North Carolina  
November 17, 2005

Mail Stop RCE  
Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RCE**

Responsive to the Final Office Action of August 22, 2005 and Advisory Action of October 5, 2005, and the telephonic interview with the Examiner on August 25, 2005, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows. This amendment supersedes any previously presented amendments.

**AMENDMENTS** to the Specification begin on page 2

**AMENDMENTS** to the Claims begin on page 4.

**REMARKS** start on page 11.